

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of March 16, 2009 issued with respect to the present RCE application, the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the air cover plate protects the inkjet nozzles from contact with paper during printing and directs compressed air across the inkjet nozzles during printing. Support for this amendment can be found at page 7, lines 5-18 and page 25, lines 9-15 of the present application;

dependent claim 2 and 3 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 3 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Kaneko, because one of ordinary skill in the art clearly understands that during the head recovery process, in which the capping means protect the head and the suction means clean the head, printing cannot be performed (see col. 6, lines 54-64), which is contrary to the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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